

The *TIMES* of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

VOL. 19, NO. 1

APRIL 1988

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Noted Vocalist In Concert

On Sunday, April 24, 4 p.m., Mary Henderson, mezzo-soprano, accompanied by Karen Laubengayer, piano, will perform "An Afternoon of Spirituals" at Grace Methodist Church, 6199 Waterman. "This program will add a new dimension to our neighborhood concert series" says Jim McLeod, president of SDCC.

Mary Henderson is Artist-in-Residence at Washington University. A native of South Carolina, she received her Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York, and continued her studies at L'Ecole Hindemith in Switzerland, and at the University of Cologne in Germany.

As an opera soloist, Miss Henderson has sung at the Chautauqua Opera in New York, and was resident mezzo-soprano soloist at the Hagen City Opera (Germany) from 1974-1980. As a guest soloist, she has sung in theatres in Oldenburg, Germany, in Berne, Switzerland, at the Royal Opera in Ghent, Belgium, and with the Opera/South in Mississippi.

Miss Henderson has sung with the St. Louis New Music Circle and the St. Louis Symphony Chamber Orchestra. Since 1985, she has been a vocal consultant at Syracuse University L'Ecole Hindemith in Vevey, Switzerland.

Karen Laubengayer has appeared in recital and as a soloist with orchestras extensively in

the Midwest. Among the competitions she has won are the Jefferson City Symphony, the Webster Symphony, the St. Louis Philharmonic Orchestra, the Dimitri Mitropoulos National Piano Competition, and the St. Louis Artist Presentation Society Competition.

Ms. Laubengayer holds a Ph.D. in Music from Washington University. She has performed at the American Academy of the Arts in Europe at Verone, Italy, and at the L'Ecole Hindemith in Vevey, Switzerland. In addition, she has studied and performed at the Aspen School of Music in Aspen, Colorado. This past summer she was chosen as one of ten pianists to perform in the International Art Song Festival held at the Cleveland Institute of Music in Cleveland, Ohio. Currently, Dr. Laubengayer is Assistant Professor of Music at Jackson State University.

The program of spirituals is a rare and special performance, sponsored by the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council and the West End Neighborhood Arts Council with support from Washington University and the Regional Arts Commission.

Tickets are \$5, \$2.50 for students, and \$25 for patrons. Patrons receive two tickets and are acknowledged in the program. Group rates are available and members of choirs receive a discount. To purchase tickets, contact any member of the SDCC or WENAC boards, or call the SDCC office, 862-5122.



Excitement Builds As Theatre Production Nears



Actors from the critically acclaimed "Penelope and the Pickle Factory" performed in May, 1986. In April of 1988, some of the same great talents will bring alive Tim Kelly's "West of Pecos," A Western comedy.

"Lights, camera, action!"—Wait a minute, that's the movies. "Learn your lines; the show is next week!"—Yeah, these are your friends and neighbors. Saturday, April 9, 8:00 p.m., the curtain will rise and "West of Pecos" will begin its one night run at the Center of Contemporary Arts, 524 Trinity.

When the lights come up, costumes, make-up, and Texas accents notwithstanding, you are certain to recognize some of the characters. Gracing the stage in this production are: Roy Bell, Frank Burke, Karen Bynum, Dee Hayes, Lisa Horner, Karen Kelsey, Rich Lake, Venita Lake, Claudia Lawrenz, Nita Littlejohn, Tom McNamara, John Roach, Mary Schmit, Peter Schmit, Ed Stout, Cal Stuart, Terry Vanicelli, and Kathleen Williams. Behind the scenes, (actually, creating the scenes—designing, building the sets, costumes, and more) are Judy Bush, Bill Christman, Laura Doyle, and Gary Hayes.

The play is directed by Rita Sweets and Rita Sweets. (She has the talent, patience, and energy of at least two people, so it's only fair to credit her twice.)

"West of Pecos" takes place in Langtry, Texas, in the late 1800's. In brief, "Judge Roy Bean, 'the Law West of Pecos', has decreed Orin Powers must hang for shooting up a

poster of his beloved Lily Langtry, the famed frontier actress. The sentence has the town of Langtry, Texas, in a stew. Bad men want Orin to swing, good citizens want him to live. Only one thing will save the unfortunate lad—the appearance of Lily herself!"

A reception will follow the performance, also at COCA. Hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, soft drinks, and set-ups will be served and are included in the admission price. Anyone who prefers distilled spirits is welcome to bring his/her own.

Tickets are \$10 per person. If you wish to purchase tickets, contact any member of the cast, SDCC board, or call the SDCC office, 862-5122.

This community theatre production is sponsored by the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council and is supported by the Regional Arts Commission. The Arts Commission awarded SDCC a grant to sponsor a series of community cultural events in 1987-88 which included a concert series, a reader's theatre production of "A Child's Christmas in Wales", this community theatre production, and the upcoming spring concert—"An Afternoon of Spirituals" with Mary Henderson. The grant funded a portion of the Martin Luther King Commemoration January 9 as well.

Thank you...

The following have made donations to **The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere** as part of our recent push to raise operating funds. Those names which appear in bold face type have given \$100 or more. The list will be ongoing.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Brian Clevenger & Mary Anne Rudloff | Anonymous |
| Sue and Sandy Rothschild | Anonymous |
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| David Garin | |
| Nancy & Richard Rice | |
| 5900 Block of DeGiverville | |

Letters To The Editor...

On The Homeless

We are somewhat outraged about the article in [the March issue of] your paper on the homeless at Grace & Peace Women's shelter, and would suggest that before slandering our reputation as "homeless" women that you make contact with us yourselves. There are many socio-political-economic reasons for homelessness. We are *not* mentally ill.

—Gloria Rahema Wrice
Main Post Office

On Proposed Redevelopment

At the last meeting of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, Mr. Martin Jaffe outlined a plan to develop the 5700 block of McPherson. A significant part of the plan will be a request for public money in the form of Community Development Agency grants. What these funds would be used for makes one wonder to what depths our public policy has descended. Consider a partial list:

1. Placing 50-60 new residential units among the twenty original buildings is called "infill" housing. CDA funds would be used to cover the cost of making the new architecture compatible with the old.
2. With the new buildings in place, the appearance of the original buildings will no longer be good enough. CDA would provide each owner up to \$4,000 for exterior repairs and improvements (\$80,000 total).
3. Presumably potential buyers must be able to locate the street. CDA would pay for the construction of an entrance monument.
4. While Jaffe calls the area "desirable and marketable," his buyers must still be "encouraged." CDA would pay loan origination fees and possibly other closing costs. (The ubiquitous property tax abatements would also apply, but that is not CDA's perview.)
5. The initial selling price of \$85,000 to \$90,000 still won't buy much of a house it seems. In fact, Jaffe considers these prices to extend from the high end of low-cost housing to the low end of the moderate-cost housing. (The median price of a new house in the metro area is about \$87,000.) So that a buyer need not go without life's essentials, CDA would fund an "amenities package" to provide a dishwasher, garbage disposal, and the like for each unit.

That these are considered appropriate uses of public money suggests both an ethical insincerity and a distorted vision of what the government's role in community development should be. I feel it safe to say that a current homeowner on 5700 McPherson would have waited an eternity to receive \$4,000 from the City or CDA if Jaffe had not chosen to extend his interests beyond Kingsbury Square. Even at that, the money is aimed at fulfilling the expressed needs of the developer, not the homeowner. Did anyone think about the *inside* of the building?

As for development strategy, the City of St. Louis, CDA, et al. should not be in the business of paying points and buying dishwashers to attract buyers whose interest in the city may extend only as far as the monetary incentives. Imagine if the city could boast of a physically and academically sound school system, a police department staffed to needed levels, dumpsters that weren't falling apart, curbs and sidewalks in good repair, etc. I suspect people would gladly pay their own points and buy their own dishwashers just to live here, and stay here.

I know that others don't see it this way. Alderman Dan McGuire spoke in support of Jaffe's proposed use of CDA money. After thirty minutes of discussion, the Council did what Jaffe asked it to do, and voted its endorsement.

—Bob Dowgwillo
6100 Pershing

(Editor's Note: Even though Bob Dowgwillo is a member of **The Times'** Board of Directors, this letter states a point of view that is neither condemned nor condoned by the Board. For further information about the proposed development, please read the minutes from the March meeting of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. There will undoubtedly be follow-up information in the months to come.)

On Pending Legislation

The bill sponsored by Sen. John E. Scott in the Missouri Legislature designed to weaken the Sunshine Law, raises serious questions. The provisions for withholding records of criminals are too many and too general. There is danger that it will tend to make the police department a closed shop, excluding rather than encouraging citizen involvement in the fight against crime. How can citizens "neighborhood watch" effectively if information on the criminal apprehended, the warrant issued, the arrest, court date, and subsequent disposition of the case, is withheld? This happens too often now. What will it be like if more criminal records are closed?

It is said that the bill will help protect the witnesses to crimes by keeping their identity secret. But it is clear that closing more arrest records will not stop the criminals, and his friends, from learning who the witnesses are. They can learn this from court records, from the media interviewing witnesses at the scene of the crime, even from neighbors and street talk.

Criminal justice officials need to chart new methods to protect witnesses. That is why the late Mayor Al Cervantes, with the approval of the Board of Aldermen, created the Crime Commission, to bring officials together to study these joint crime problems.

Closing arrest records is not the answer. An alert, informed citizenry is. But how can citizens be involved when the criminal justice system is operated behind a veil of secrecy. This is the basic objection to Senator Scott's bill, however well-intentioned it is.

—Delphine McClellan

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editor: Katie Kurtz, 727-6377

The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere is published by the West End Publishing Co., a not-for-profit, community organization. Members of the Board of Directors are:

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Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of The Times has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents.

All material—articles, letters, notices, classified ads—must be typewritten on opaque paper, double-spaced, and signed. Signatures on correspondence to the editor may, on publication, be omitted by request. Calendar listings should be phoned or mailed to the staff member responsible for the Calendar of Events. Deadline for all copy is the 15th of the month.

In a news article it is essential that the writer state the most important information in the first paragraph. The writer is responsible for the accuracy of data, including times, dates, locations and particularly the spelling of names.

Any pictures or illustrations submitted should be in black and white.

The editor retains the right to omit or alter any material.

Send all correspondence to 6010a Kingsbury, 63112. Deadline: 15th of the month.

COME!	WORSHIP!	CELEBRATE!
SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH		
Sunday — 11 a.m.		
Dr. Joseph R. Hookey, Pastor	367-0366	4501 Westminster Place (at Taylor)

Calendar

APRIL

[Continuing:] *I, Too, Sing America: Black St. Louisans in the 1940s Exhibition* features a living room, c. 1948, filled with photographs, newspapers, magazines and other memorabilia from World War II and the post-war era that recall the lives of black St. Louisans in the 1940s. Missouri Historical Society History Museum lower level through March. 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Free.

Through May 22: *Frederic Remington: The Masterworks*. Special Exhibition Galleries. Art Museum.

Through April 17: *Arms and the Man*, presented by the Theatre Project Company. New City School, 5209 Waterman, 8:00 p.m. \$8-\$13.

3 *Painter Linda Prenger* will show paintings on silk for wearing and framing at Compone Gallery, 6509 Delmar thru April 29. Meet the Artist reception from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

4 *Violinist Jacques Israelievitch* will perform with the Washington University Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Seth Carlin. 8:00 p.m., Graham Chapel. Free.

Skinker DeBaliviere Community meets, 7:30 p.m., 6010a Kingsbury. Public welcome.

5 "Will South Africa Survive?" lecture by Helen Suzman, a member of the South African Parliament and nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize. 4:00 p.m., Graham Chapel, Washington University. Free.

BLITZ Day Brings Spring Cleaning To Area



A successful clean-up on BLITZ Day in 1985.

For the benefit of newcomers to the neighborhood and City, Project Blitz is an annual "spring cleaning" day for alleys and public areas. This year it is set for April 30. In brief: the City is divided into Regions, each Region divided into Areas, each Area divided into Blocks. Each Region has a volunteer chairman; the chairman recruits and coordinates volunteers to serve as Area Commanders; Commanders recruit volunteers to serve as Block Captains; Block Captains recruit volunteers to work the day of Blitz—cleaning alleys, planting flowers in public areas, or working on a special project of the block's choice. The City provides: trash pick-up from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., both for regular refuse and bulky items; flowers to plant in public areas; and a limited number of garbage bags, brooms, rakes, and shovels for cleaning. With an advanced request, the City will also provide heavy equipment, such as dump trucks or bull dozers for specific projects.

Anheuser-Busch sponsors a competition for Best Beautification Projects, and Best Clean-up Projects. Prizes are awarded in each category for first (\$100), second (\$50), and third (\$25) place within each Region; regional winners are automatically entered in the city-wide competition for first (\$1000), second (\$500), and third (\$250) place awards. Entries in the contest must be submitted in advance with "before" photographs, projects must be completed by Blitz Saturday.

Blitz Day is a project of Operation Brightside, a not-for-profit corporation supported by the City, and administered by Executive Director Susie Feinberg, also a Skinker-DeBaliviere resident. Brightside works closely with the Parks Department and other City agencies year-round on beautification and

clean-up programs, but the bulk of their support and manpower is volunteer. 1988 marks the sixth year for the very successful Blitz program.

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council and Sam Green are the Commanders for our neighborhood, Area A, again this year. Area headquarters will be at the SDCC offices, 6010A Kingsbury. Four Corners will be submitted as a special project in the beautification category. The Kingsbury Kiosk Library at Four Corners will celebrate its fifth birthday with a party the Saturday after Blitz on May 7; therefore, the plaza deserves extra attention—cleaning, planting, flowers, etc.—on Blitz Day.

Neighbors are encouraged to clean their alleys in the morning and then around 11-11:30, head down to Four Corners. All volunteers are invited to have a cold soft drink and hot dog, cooked and served by volunteers from St. Roch Church, at the plaza. Of course, any assistance with the project there is appreciated, too.

For this year's Blitz, five varieties of flowers are available: Apollo Marigolds, Moonshot Marigolds, mixed-color periwinkles, Shasta Daisies, and mixed-color hibiscus. If you wish to volunteer, or order flowers, tools, bags, etc., contact your block captain; if you don't know the captain for your block, call SDCC. If you have a group outside a specific block, e.g. a school or church organization, who would like to participate in Blitz, also call SDCC, 862-5122.

A footnote: the City Inspectors are typically lenient before Blitz Day, and do not issue citations for trash, weeds, etc., in the alleys. Blitz Day is an opportunity to get out and clean up and bring the alleys up to code. The Inspectors are not so lenient after Blitz.

- 8** *Guitarists, the de Falla Trio*, at the Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Road, 8:00 p.m. \$10, \$6 students, seniors.
- 8** *The Apartment* (film), with Jack Lemmon. 1:30, 7:00 & 9:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium. \$2, \$1 for Friends.
- 9** *Storytelling at the Kiosk*, 11:30 a.m. Outside on the lawn or at the 28th Ward Headquarters, Kingsbury at Des Peres.
- 9** **SDCC Dinner Theater**. (See related article.)
- 10** *W.C. Fields: The Original, Unique and Eccentric Juggler*—films and lecture. 2:30 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium. Free.
"European Influences on St. Louis and University City Architecture." lecture by Elinor Coyle, 2:30 p.m., U. City Library. Sponsored by the Historical Society of U. City. Free.
- 12** *Craft Show*, 3:00-8:00 p.m. Hamilton Community School, 5819 Westminster.
- 13** "Anglo-Irish Relations: The Sins of the Fathers," lecture by Sir Oliver Wright, former British Ambassador to the U.S. 11:00 a.m., Graham Chapel, Washington University. Free.
- 15** *Days of Wine and Roses* (film), with Jack Lemmon. 1:30, 7:00 & 9:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium. \$2, \$1 for Friends.
- 17** "Jefferson Memorial Celebrates 75 Years," talk by Robert A. Mullen. 2:00 p.m., Missouri Historical Society. Free.
"A New Spirit in Painting: Six Painters of the 1980s," film at the St. Louis Gallery of Contemporary Art. 524 Trinity, 1:00 p.m. Free.
- 18** *Louise Salmon and Noel Prince*, duo-pianists, Fine Arts Recital Room, Fontbonne College, 6800 Wydown, 5:30 p.m. Free.
- 19** **4-H Fun Day**, 4:00-6:00 p.m. Hamilton Community School, 5819 Westminster.
- 20** **B.A.D. Talent Show auditions**, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Hamilton Community School, 5819 Westminster. (Also 4/20.)
Image Impact for Women Workshop, featuring consultants from BeautiControl Cosmetics, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Hamilton Community School, 450 Des Peres. Free.
- 21** "Growing Up in St. Louis, 1870s-1940s," talk by Karen Goering followed by tea with pastries. 1:30 p.m., Missouri Historical Society. \$3, reservations 361-1424.
- 22** *Works on paper by Italian artists Francesco Clemente and Sandro Chia* at the Elliot Smith Gallery through May 29th.
William Quinn: Travels Through Flanders, paintings at the Elliot Smith Gallery through May 29th. 360 N. Skinker.
St. Roch Theater Club will present "A Celebration of the Arts," 8:00 p.m., St. Roch's Church Hall, Rosedale at Waterman. (See related article.)
- 23** **Skating Party for the Hamilton Community School**. Y.S.P. (Youth Striving for Progress.) Saints Roller Rink. Call 367-6996 for information.
- 24** *Mary Henderson with "An Afternoon of Spirituals,"* 4:00 p.m., Grace United Methodist Church, Waterman and Skinker. \$5, \$2.50 for students, \$25 for Patrons. (See related article.)
A Day Out West: Family Day at the Art Museum. A free afternoon of Old West family activities inspired by the Remington exhibition. Noon-5 p.m. Call 721-0067, ext. 275 for information.
- 27** *Image Improvement for Men Workshop*, featuring consultants from BeautiControl Cosmetics. 7:00-9:00 p.m., Hamilton Community School, 450 Des Peres. Free.
- 29** *Songs of RiverMagic and The Hunting of the Snark* by the Metro Theater Circus. 2:00 and 8:00 p.m., Edison Theatre, Washington University. \$8, \$6 students and seniors.
Missing (film), with Jack Lemmon. 1:30, 7:00 & 9:15 p.m., Art Museum Auditorium. \$2, \$1 for Friends.
- 30** *Growing Up in St. Louis*: birthday celebration with cake, balloons and music opens new exhibition of children's activities. 1:30 p.m., Missouri Historical Society. Free.
Operation Brightside BLITZ Day. Join your neighbors in cleaning your streets and alleys!

MAY

- 2** **Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council meets**, 7:30 p.m., 6010a Kingsbury. Public welcome.
- 7** *Kingsbury Kiosk 5th anniversary celebration!* Watch for more details.

MARKET in the LOOP



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6655 DELMAR BOULEVARD

Delmar Baptist Wins Again



The Delmar Baptist Senior High Boys Basketball Team retained their title as League Champions on Saturday, March 12 when they defeated the team from First Baptist Church of Arnold, 76 to 53. The Delmar Baptist team was well coached by Bill Brady of 61XX Washington. Together with Brady's leadership abilities and knowledge of the game and the outstanding sportsmanship of the players, the team of neighborhood boys brought home its fourth first-place trophy in six years.

The team was honored at the church on Wednesday, March 16 with a banquet. Special guests included Nancy Farmer, SDCC, and Louis Forsyth of the Missouri Baptist Conventions missions department. Special recognition was given to the team's sponsor and Bible study leader, Sam "Mr. Donut" Austin.

Most of the young men also participate in the church's open gym program which is held three days each week after school. The program will continue through May. For more information about this and other programs, call the church office at 725-2311. Samuel Binch is pastor, and Douglas Vancil is Minister of Outreach.

Team Members in Alphabetical order:

Derek Brown	Cody Starks
Vernon Bruce	Mike Stovall
Sid King	Lance Watt
Marvin Long	Carlos Young
Tony Long	Kevin Young
Darral McCoy	Coach—Bill Brady
Chan Starks	Sponsor—Sam Austin

Softball Beagles Eye New Season, Seek Reinforcements

by Brad Weir

The game of slow pitch softball has been played by a group of neighborhood men who are thirtysomething in one of those "over thirty" leagues for so many years that a number of them are now fortysomething. We are talking about the group that forms the St. Roch's entry in a ten-team league which plays every Friday night from the first Friday in May until the last Friday in August. The games are played at 6:30 PM in parks all over south St. Louis.

This St. Roch's team is the remnant of a team formed fifteen years ago to play slow pitch softball in the Class A Open division of the Muni League. That team went through two consecutive seasons without winning a single game. When word reached the neighborhood of a new over-thirty league being formed of teams from various parishes, we made the switch. The St. Roch's team, from the beginning, had players who were parishioners and players who were not—and some who didn't even live in Skinker-DeBaliviere. The 1988 team will be the same.

This new league suited us better because we were competing on our level and we began to win some games. There were no practices, no umpires (each team at bat umpers during that half inning), and no trophies. There were just guys who like to play ball and drink beer and not necessarily in that order.

Through the seasons we have added new players as others have dropped out, and we're looking to add more now. This is a league where you can be as competitive as you want

to be—or as laid back. This is a league of guys who think that softball on a Friday night is a perfect tonic after a week of crabby customers or impossible deadlines or ridiculous clients or Nameless Dread. On this team, when the manager flashes the "take" sign to his batter, it means "take an extra beer to the field next inning, the heart of their order is coming up."

How good do you have to be? If you think that seven innings of slow pitch is a fitting way to spend a couple of hours on Friday evenings, you're in. If you think that ball is better played on honest crabgrass than polyester fiber, you're invited.

If you think a game is better illuminated by the sun than the ersatz light of an ear-splitting, rag-draped dome, welcome aboard.

But if, perchance, you could stand on the pitcher's mound and deliver, 20 or 30 times an inning, a ball with a little spin which rises in an elegant arc to a height that is just short of illegal and drops, unerringly, completing a perfect parabola, just nicking the back outside corner of the strike zone, leaving the batter flailing helplessly skyward, like Moe Howard trying to chop his way out of a packing crate, you are not only in, not only invited, not only welcome, but there will be a silver gray stretch limousine in front of your house at 6:00 PM each Friday night to take you to the game.

Call Brad Weir, 863-7558.

There is no *Vicissitudes* in the April issue because author Lisa Horner is busy preparing for her role in *West of Pecos*. The column will return in May.

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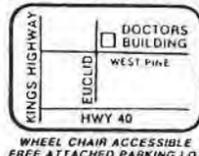
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DAYS - EVENINGS - SATURDAYS



March SDCC Meeting

Minutes of the March 7, 1988, meeting of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council.

Attending: Laura Cheaney, Bob Dowgwillo, Georgi Fox, Karleen Hoerr, Bob Mahon, Jim McLeod, Paul Repetto, Eddie Sanders, Neville Vatcha, Jack Wright.

Guests: Lt. Cognata, Denny Dunaway, Lt. Hammer, Martin Jaffe, Alderman Dan McGuire, Charles Mosley and Shirley Polk. **McLeod introduced Martin Jaffe and Denny Dunaway of City Rehab Corp.:**

Jaffe explained City Rehab has the development rights and the vacant lots on 5700 McPherson, owned by Pantheon, under contract. City Rehab has no intention or interest in acquiring the existing buildings on the block. City Rehab proposes in-fill housing on the vacant lots.

City Rehab has submitted a proposal to CDA for FSIP (For Sale Incentive Program) funds. He has come to SDCC to explain the plan, and to ask for SDCC's endorsement. He will meet with residents of the block tomorrow, and he is working with the two aldermen involved. (The north side of the block is in 26th ward, the south in 28th ward.)

The plan involves eight separate parcels of vacant land. Beginning at the northeastern end of the block, the building designs will be a transition from the frame structures in adjacent Kingsbury Square. Moving to the western and southwestern parcels, the design will conform to existing architecture of the block. The structures will be duplexes or rowhouse configurations, and will sell for \$85-90,000. With two and three bedroom units, the project will attract moderate-income families and new residents to the city.

Most of the area will be marketed as an extension of Skinker DeBaliviere, as opposed to an extension of Kingsbury Square. The units at McPherson and Laurel will face Laurel. In Kingsbury Square, Jaffe has found there is a market for custom building; he believes he can attract this market with the McPherson project as well.

City Rehab has asked the City to fund: improvements on Laurel from Waterman to the Bi-State garage; entrance monuments at Laurel and McPherson; fencing and landscaping; cleaning and repaving the alleys; landscaping and improving McPherson. Jaffe believes these proposals not only make the new construction possible, but will benefit the residents on the block and the entire neighborhood as well.

Jaffe was questioned about the design of the new construction: They do not plan frame buildings—that design is fine in Kingsbury Square, but no appropriate for 5700 McPherson. The architecture of the existing buildings on the block is very diverse; the new construction will include bays, cornices, front porches, and brick on the facades to conform with existing structures. All units will have garages providing two off-street parking places.

City Rehab is also requesting funds to assist buyers of the units; FSIP can be used by purchasers for closing costs, points, and interest write-downs.

CDA is reviewing City Rehab's proposals now and will make a decision in two to three months. Jaffe said the plans and ideas were considered innovative and creative and were generally well received in preliminary meetings with CDA reps.

Questions and discussion followed:

Total number of units proposed? 55-60.
How much is the grant request? Excluding the street and alley improvements, request is \$15,000 per unit for the first 21 units. As the project progresses, and the values on the block increase, the amount requested per unit should decrease.

An amount has also been requested in grants for current homeowners to improve their buildings.

McGuire commented this program addresses a concern that he and other city officials frequently hear: developers get everything. Homeowners, typically lower income, who have worked to improve their neighborhoods through bad times, are often forced out with redevelopment plans. He agrees this is a new and innovative approach to helping people who are already on the block to stay there and enjoy the benefits of redevelopment.

Concern was expressed that such a large sum of public money is requested for a single block when there are many needs elsewhere in the neighborhood.

McGuire responded this is by no means a precedent; other blocks in Skinker DeBaliviere and the city have been heavily subsidized to attract responsible, private investment. If it were easy, or even possible, for this project to be developed without subsidy, it would have been done ten years ago.

It was moved and seconded that SDCC endorse the development plan for 5700 McPherson. The motion passed with two nay votes and two abstentions.

McLeod introduced Lt. Don Cognata of 7th District Police:

It was reported the major problem in our area and the metro area is car theft. The pattern of theft has changed from cars being stolen for "joy riding" to permanent retention. Cognata reported that the recent problems with fights and assaults in schools had had a big effect on police manpower.

He reported that 7th district is also investigating complaints about gang activity in the area. As our needs warrant, the police try to increase patrols, but they are shifting and cutting back manpower.

Historic District Ordinance: McLeod distributed copies of a portion of the ordinance which outlines the three charges for a Historic District Review Committee. The ordinance was passed in 1978; as this is the 10th anniversary year of the ordinance, McLeod believes SDCC needs to reinstitute the committee to review the document.

West End Neighborhood Arts Council: Hoerr, who also serves on the WENAC board, reported it met last week and elected several new directors as well as new officers. They have submitted a proposal to Regional Arts Commission requesting funds for Art Exposed, a spring concert series, and a program for children. WENAC is co-sponsoring the Mary Henderson concert in April with SDCC and the University. Anyone who would like to work with the Arts Council should call Polly O'Brien, the new president, or contact the SDCC office.

Henderson Concert: McLeod reported Mary Henderson will perform a program of spirituals on Sunday, April 24, 4 p.m. at Grace Church. This program adds another dimension to our series of concerts co-sponsored with WENAC. The Arts Council is

addressing invitations to the event and providing most of the volunteers needed. SDCC needs to support the event, help promote it, sell tickets, and recruit donations for the reception. Ticket prices are \$5, \$2.50 for students, \$25 for patrons who receive two tickets and are acknowledged in the program.

Liquor Licenses: Repetto asked the status of requesting an ordinance to restrict 3 a.m. liquor licenses in our area.

Farmer has talked with McGuire; we need to make the request in writing and specify the area we wish to include. McGuire stated that a portion of our northern boundary includes the 26th ward; our request should also be addressed to that Alderman, Marion Miller.

Repetto moved SDCC write a letter to Aldermen McGuire and Miller requesting the area served by the Council be excepted from the right to have liquor licenses allowing 3 a.m. closing. Second by Hoerr and approved.

Social Service Committee: Fox reported the committee met last week, K. Kindell (Hamilton Community School), L. Emerson (Breitmeyer Minister, Grace Church), M. Watkins (interested neighbor, member St. Roch), Fox, and Farmer attended. The committee has decided to recruit volunteers to assist with GED classes at Hamilton. Kindell reports the student-teacher ratio is 35:1; one-to-one tutoring volunteers would be a great service. The school will provide training for volunteers in how to teach. Currently the committee is looking for volunteers to work one or two hours per week. Anyone willing to help should call SDCC.

Parkview Report: Mahon stated Parkview approved a six-year budget and an assessment increase last Monday. Because of the increase, Parkview will retain Wells Fargo security and schedule capital improvements including resurfacing streets and work on the subdivision's infrastructure.

Terra-Cotta Angel Figures: Farmer reported Larry Giles called the office last week to ask about SDCC's plans for the figures, which are stores in his warehouse. He is willing to keep them in storage, but they need to be crated so they can be stored upright. The angel figures were originally part of the Title Guaranty Building. When that structure was razed, the four angels were donated to SDCC. After much discussion, SDCC arranged with Pantheon to have the figures installed in the DeBaliviere Arcade when it was renovated. Since plans for that renovation were dropped and those buildings torn down, SDCC has not discussed the angel

figures. Giles told Farmer if SDCC is interested, he may have a buyer for one of the figures; at \$2000-\$2500, it would more than pay for the cost of crating the remaining three at \$300-\$400 each.

P. Repetto moved the Council authorize the executive director to seek a buyer for the four angel figures. Second by Hoerr and approved.

Neighborhood Study: McGuire informed SDCC of a follow-up development study being conducted by Kennedy and Associates under contract with the City's Community Development Agency. It is not comprehensive, but will be a good tool for the neighborhood to use. Part of the study's charge is for the planners to meet with neighborhood leaders and discuss their findings as well as ideas for improving the neighborhood. McGuire invites all SDCC directors to attend either of the two meetings scheduled: Tuesday, March 15, or Wednesday, March 26.

Director's Report: Dinner Theatre—The closest suitable space for the play which was available on or before May 30, is the Center for Contemporary Arts, 524 Trinity. Farmer and play director, Rita Sweets, have scheduled the performance for Saturday, April 9. Also, because of cost for space and rentals, there will be an hors d'oeuvre/dessert reception after the performance instead of a full sit-down dinner. The play is "West of Pecos," a western; it has been cast and rehearsals are scheduled two-three times a week. A cash bar is not permitted, so tickets will be priced at \$10 per person. Eight to ten volunteers are needed to take tickets, usher, and work the reception.

Skinker DeBaliviere Business Association—There was discussion by the leadership of forming a new, larger, umbrella organizations which would serve areas both north and east of Skinker-DeBaliviere, but as they met with the leadership in other areas and organizations, there was little interest or need for that kind of structure. However, SDBA's official service area boundaries have been relaxed, primarily so the association can work more closely with 7th district police and some of the businesses north of Delmar where there is no association in place. The next SDBA meeting is March 15, 6-8 p.m.; several new officers are being nominated including Jessie Cox for president.

Property Managers' Association—Farmer has met with Teri Cohn, discussed some ideas and looked at some brochure samples. Next step is to contact property owners and see if there is interest in funding a joint marketing brochure.



View of the 5700 block of McPherson looking east from Laurel.

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Historical Museum Celebrates 75th Years

St. Louisans are invited to celebrate a birthday on April 30—the 75th anniversary of the Jefferson Memorial Building in Forest Park, as the History Museum opens its new exhibition "Growing Up in St. Louis." The festivities begin at 1:30 p.m. with music, cake, and balloons. Guests are invited to celebrate, then go back in time to revive memories evoked by the new exhibits.

The period of time spans the pre-automobile era to the pre-television era, the 1870s to the 1940s. The subject matter ranges from toys and games to the child welfare movement. The opening of the first kindergarten and the founding of St. Louis Children's Hospital draw on history specific to St. Louis.

"The settings are interactive, where possible," said Karen M. Goering, acting executive director of the History Museum. "A life-size photo with openings for faces allows children to see themselves in the clothing of another period as they face a mirror. We have collected a variety of views of exotic places and historic events for use in a reproduction of a stereoticon," she said. At one station in the exhibition, school desks are provided for visitors to sit and write their own memories of growing up in St. Louis.

Different themes are explored throughout the gallery. Children's literature is illustrated by still popular books from the late 1900s and early 20th century—Eugene Field's poems, *Tom Sawyer* and *Winnie the Pooh*, and Caldecott and Newberry award winners.

Toys and games, depicting leisure activities, invite comparing and contrasting blocks, board games, puzzles, ice skates and sleds from the 1880s with similar toys from the 1930s. Paper dolls, pull toys, wagons, airplanes, and dolls from the museum's rich collections fill the scene. Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Indian Guides are among the organized activities represented.



"TEA PARTY," early 1900s, printed from a glass plate negative from the C.F. Bartlett collection of the Missouri Historical Society. The photograph is part of the Society's new exhibition "Growing Up in St. Louis."

Household chores, very much the rule, are illustrated in photographs and items such as a "sad" iron that may be picked up to demonstrate its weight. An authentic newspaper cart with photographs of a paper boy show work commonly performed by young wage-earners.

A 1930s radio plays selections from recorded serials. Premiums offered by Captain Midnight, Sky King and the Green Hornet recall the magic of radio days.

"Growing Up in St. Louis," located in the Shoenberg Portrait Gallery on the lower level of the History Museum adjacent to the Lionberger Gallery, will be on view through 1988.

Museum hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday, and there is no admission charge.

Tea Lecture Previews "Growing Up In St. Louis"

Karen Goering will preview the new exhibition in a tea lecture on "Growing Up in St. Louis" on Thursday, April 21 at 1:30 p.m. Her talk with slides will recall memories shared by parents and grandparents, and their stories about "when we were young."

The cost of \$3 per person is payable at the door. For reservations and information, call 361-1424.

Rosedale Plans Elections

The Rosedale Neighborhood Association held a pot-luck dinner meeting, Tuesday, March 15, at 28th Ward Headquarters. About twenty-five neighbors, new and old, attended the meeting to "ask City Hall." Alderman Dan McGuire, Neighborhood Liaison Officer Jane Rund, 7th District Police Lt. Don Cognata, and SDCC Executive Director Nancy Farmer each took a turn answering questions from the floor.

Rosedale officers, Frank Burke, 1st Vice-President and Laura Cheaney, South Side representative to SDCC, conducted the meeting. They lead a discussion about the upcoming election of officers for RNA, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the RNA board. The following nominations have been accepted: President—Terry Buckley, 1st Vice-President—Marj Weir, 2nd Vice-President—Henry Asbury, Secretary—Susan Littlefield, Treasurer—Clare Kerz, Laura Cheaney and alternate Arline Webb (south side), Paul Kurtz and alternate Frank Driscoll (north side), as representatives to the SDCC board.

The next Rosedale meeting will be scheduled in mid-May, primarily to elect new officers. As always, nominations from the floor are welcome. Watch for the May edition of the *Times* and flyers announcing the date and location for the meeting.

St. Roch Theater Club To Debut in April

The smell of grease paint and roar of the crowd has come to St. Roch School as theater students prepare for opening night. Last fall, the school formed its first theater club workshop which takes its direction from St. Roch parents Mary Wright and Rose Flynn. These volunteers share their special talents with the children each Thursday after school.

Mary Wright is a master of fine arts in theater from S.I.U. Edwardsville, and a former twelve-year veteran teacher at Pattonville Senior High School where she taught theater classes, sponsored drama clubs, and directed many theater productions including, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, and *Once Upon A Mattress*.

Rose Flynn is an enthusiastic and talented theater buff who has participated in numerous community and neighborhood theater projects, especially in set design and construction. She particularly enjoys singing and storytelling with her young students at Grace Preschool, and at the Kiosk branch of the St. Louis Library where she presents storytelling on Saturday mornings.

With such talent in the directors' chairs, it was clear that the club would be a hit with the discriminating St. Roch kids. The success of the activity has been well received even though the experience is a new one for most of the children, and in spite of the wide age range among club members.

Both Wright and Flynn feel that the workshop experience should include opportunities to build a child's self-confidence and self-esteem. That is why they have selected Viola Spolin's *Improvisation for the Theater* as a working text for the workshop. Most of the improvisational exercises performed in class encourage group participation, development of the senses, and non-street related activities.

"We initially wanted to give each student a chance to feel good about being in front of his or her peers without the pressure of script memorization. Improvisational theater is perfect for that goal," says Wright.

"Our biggest challenge was finding a format that worked well with such a diversity of

ages, kindergarten through eighth grade, and a range of abilities, in that some of the youngest children are not confident readers yet. We seem to have hit on the right formula with this approach," says Flynn.

Though the workshop is not performance oriented, in the weeks ahead, the young thespians will be preparing for their first public appearance. On April 22, at 8:00 pm in the St. Roch Church Hall, the students will take their first bows at the St. Roch School Association sponsored "A Celebration of the Arts" night. The evening is a showcase of the theatrical, musical and art talents of the children for their families and friends.

On with the show!



St. Roch Theater club members (from left): Elizabeth Mahon, Kevin Davis, Madelyn Vanicelli, Monica Vanicelli, and John Wright are prepared for opening night.

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Young Mothers At The Kiosk

by Mary Ann Shickman

A rich variety of people come in and out of the Kiosk daily. They are young and old and from many different backgrounds, but one group in particular deserves special recognition. They really help keep circulation up because there are quite a few of them; I am talking about the young mothers.

On a good day, three or four of them arrive with their babies in strollers and perhaps a toddler at their side with "Rover" bringing up the rear. After "Rover" is tied to the bike rack, they come inside where the toddler makes a bee-line to the movable, circular shelves and begins twirling them. After this they will sit on the floor and page through picture books. Young children like to choose their own books in what appears to be random selection, pulling a book from the shelf and running with it to the Check-out Desk. Mothers usually exchange these for ones they have chosen when the child is distracted. After the children's needs are met, mothers

pick out their own books from among many diverse topics, such as fiction, child development, cooking, and gardening.

This group is special to me—like friends. Because of this, I wanted to create an activity for them. When I saw them on the lawn, after they had checked out their books, reading to their children, the idea of storytelling-in-the-grass came to me. Storytelling-in-the-grass began last summer and continued through the winter at 28th Ward Democratic Headquarters. We even had a Christmas party with stories and games with about thirty in attendance, including mothers and fathers.

We have a new time and day for story time. It will now begin at 11:30 on the second Saturday of the month. This month on April 9, young mother and story lady, Rose Flynn, will read poetry. After the 45-minute story time there will be something new, a 15 minute "mother's exchange" where all things are possible such as exchanging baby sitter numbers, Pamper Coupons, and who knows what else.



Debra Green (rear) and Lucy Hannigan (foreground) help their children pick out books at the Kiosk.



The de Falla Guitar Trio will be in concert April 8 & 9, 8 p.m. at the Ethical Society Concert Hall. The trio's program will include the Canon in D major by Johann Pachabel and the music of Leonard Bernstein and of their namesake, Manuel de Falla. Call 725-0739 for ticket information.



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A large portion of the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood is targeted by this program.

For more information and assistance, phone the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, 862-5122.



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